

CLAIMS

1. A platter for use in a forced air / microwave combination oven, the platter comprising an upper surface and a lower surface and incorporating a plurality of apertures passing through the thickness of the platter;  
5                    wherein one or both of the surfaces of the platter incorporate a recess substantially surrounding at least one of the apertures.
2. A platter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the upper surface is profiled such that each  
10                    aperture is substantially surrounded by an individual recess.
3. A platter as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the recess tapers outwards towards the upper surface.
- 15    4. A platter as claimed in Claim 3, wherein adjacent tapering recesses meet at common points on the upper surface of the platter.
5. A platter as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the apertures are arranged in an array of rows and columns, and wherein the upper surface is profiled such that a plurality of  
20                    apertures in a row are together substantially surrounded by an elongate recess extending along said row.
6. A platter as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the elongate recess tapers outwards towards the upper surface.

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7. A platter as claimed in Claim 5 or Claim 6, wherein the lower surface is profiled such that a plurality of apertures in a column are together substantially surrounded by an elongate recess extending along said column.
- 5 8. A platter as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the elongate recess tapers outwards towards the lower surface.
9. A platter as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the upper surface further comprises one or more vertically-extending members.
- 10 10. A platter as claimed in Claim 9 when dependent on Claim 5, wherein the vertically-extending members are of the form of ridges between adjacent rows of apertures.
- 15 11. A platter as claimed in Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein the height of the vertically-extending members is sufficient to enable a plurality of platters to be stacked in use in an oven.
- 20 12. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 11, further incorporating an indentation shaped to receive an item of cookware, the indentation being positioned to align the cookware with microwave radiation in the oven in use.
13. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 12, wherein the apertures are distributed over substantially the entire surface area of the platter.
- 25 14. A platter for use in an oven, the platter comprising:

a central region substantially devoid of apertures, and

one or more apertures at substantially the edge of the platter, said one or more apertures passing through the thickness of the platter.

5 15. A platter as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said one or more apertures are positioned at the edge of the platter and are open-sided.

16. A platter as claimed in Claim 14 or Claim 15, further comprising one or more raised edge members around the perimeter of the platter for retaining food debris in use.

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17. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 14, 15 or 16, further comprising means for attaching a handle.

18. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 14 to 17, further comprising handle means.

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19. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 18, made of a polymer material.

20. A platter as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the polymer material is a liquid crystal polymer resin reinforced with glass.

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21. A platter as claimed in Claim 19, made of DuPont (RTM) Zenite (RTM) 7130.

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22. A platter for use in a forced air / microwave combination oven, wherein the platter incorporates an indentation shaped to receive an item of cookware, the indentation being positioned to align the cookware with microwave radiation in the oven in use.

23. A platter for use in a forced air / microwave combination oven, the platter incorporating apertures distributed over substantially the entire surface area of the platter.

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24. A platter for use in an oven, the platter being made of a polymer material.

25. A platter as claimed in Claim 24, wherein the polymer material is a liquid crystal polymer resin reinforced with glass.

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26. A platter as claimed in Claim 24, made of DuPont (RTM) Zenite (RTM) 7130.

27. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 24, 25 or 26, further comprising a plurality of apertures passing through the thickness of the platter.

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28. A platter as claimed in Claim 27, wherein at least some of the apertures are arranged in the central region of the platter.

29. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 26, 27 or 28, further comprising one or more open-sided apertures at the edge of the platter.

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30. A platter as claimed in any of Claims 27, 28 or 29, further comprising a plurality of ridges on one or both major surfaces of the platter.

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31. A platter as claimed in Claim 30, wherein at least some of the ridges are positioned between apertures.
32. A platter having a first major surface and a second major surface, the surface area of the first major surface being greater than that of the second major surface so as to concentrate heat flux from the first major surface to the second major surface in use.
33. A platter as claimed in Claim 32, wherein the first major surface is ridged or convoluted and the second major surface is substantially flat.
34. An oven having a platter as claimed in any preceding claim.
35. A method of cooking using an oven having a platter as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 33.
36. A method of cooking as claimed in Claim 35 when dependent on Claims 12 or 22, further comprising using an article of cookware shaped to correspond with the shape of the indentation, and locating said article of cookware in the indentation.
30. A platter for use in an oven substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in any combination of the accompanying drawings.
31. A method of cooking using an oven substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in any combination of the accompanying drawings.